

Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

January 13, 2022

National Weather Service Spokane

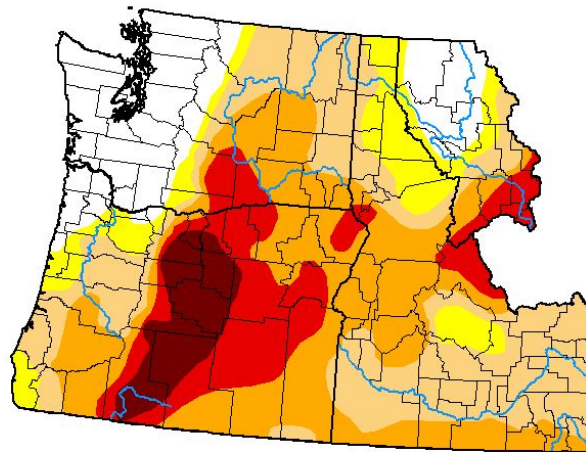
Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW



U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

Drought conditions continue to show improvements in the last month across the Inland Northwest, especially extreme eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.

- Only pockets of extreme (D3) drought remain in the lower Columbia Basin and the Camas Prairie of Idaho
- Areas of moderate (D2) drought span from the upper Columbia Basin to the Lewiston Clarkston Valley



January 11, 2022

(Released Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.48	83.52	73.42	46.27	18.95	5.76
Last Week 01-04-2022	15.92	84.08	75.97	48.26	22.13	6.50
3 Months Ago 10-12-2021	6.19	93.81	90.80	84.73	56.67	22.85
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	15.92	84.08	75.97	48.26	22.13	6.50
Start of Water Year 09-26-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 01-12-2021	39.28	60.72	36.86	24.70	9.96	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



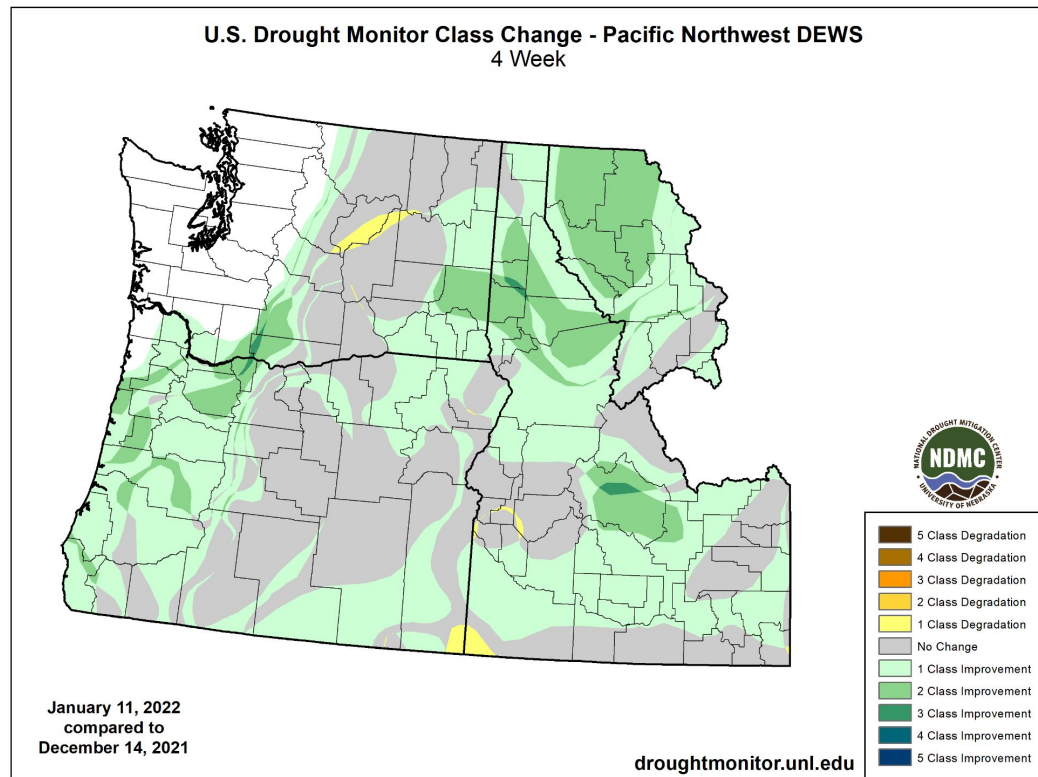
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

One Month Drought Change



Above normal precipitation last fall increased soil moisture and streamflows which helped decrease the drought severity across the Inland NW. The recent rounds of winter snow and colder temperatures aided in building the mountain snowpack.

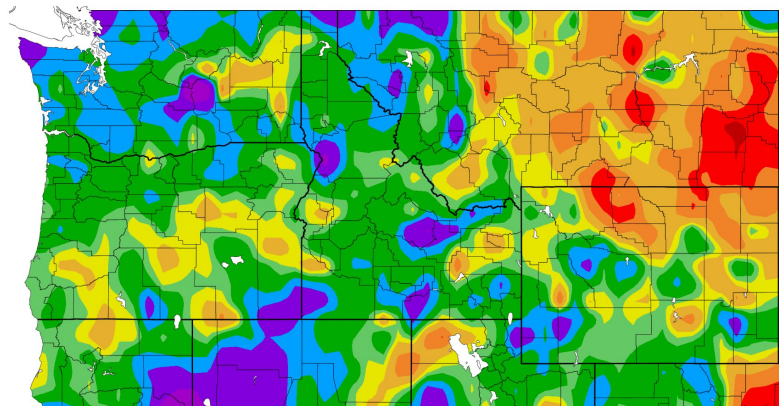
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>



Last 90 Days



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/15/2021 – 1/12/2022

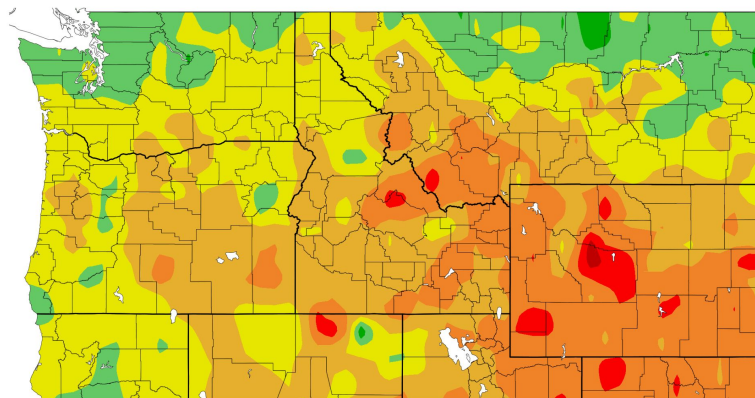


Generated 1/13/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Near to above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/15/2021 – 1/12/2022



Generated 1/13/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

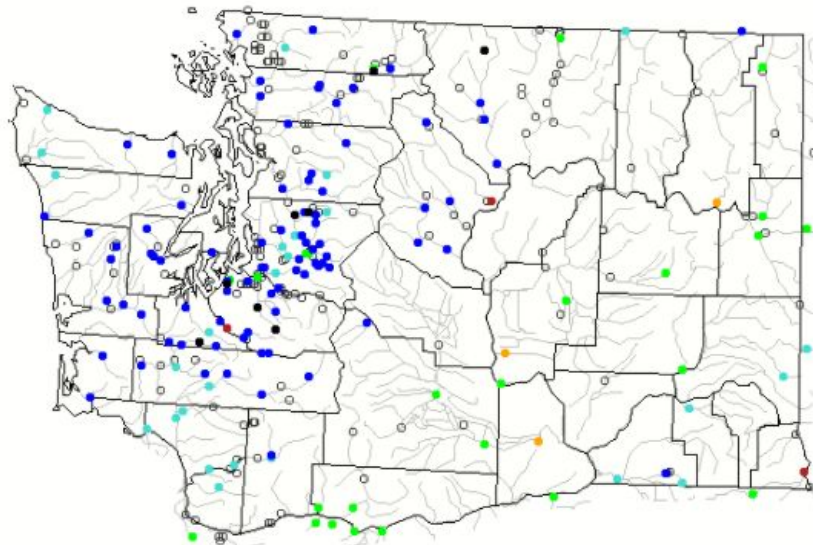
Temperatures have been running near to above normal region-wide, despite the cold snap in late December and early January.

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

Drought Impacts - Streamflows

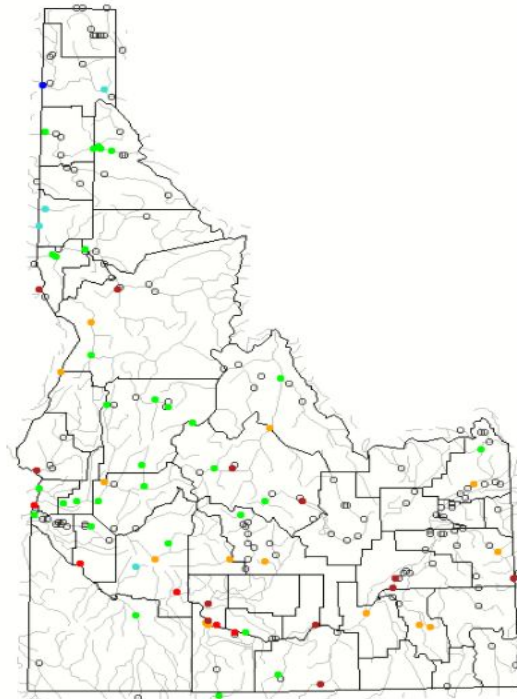


Thursday, January 13, 2022 18:30ET



USGS

Thursday, January 13, 2022 17:30ET



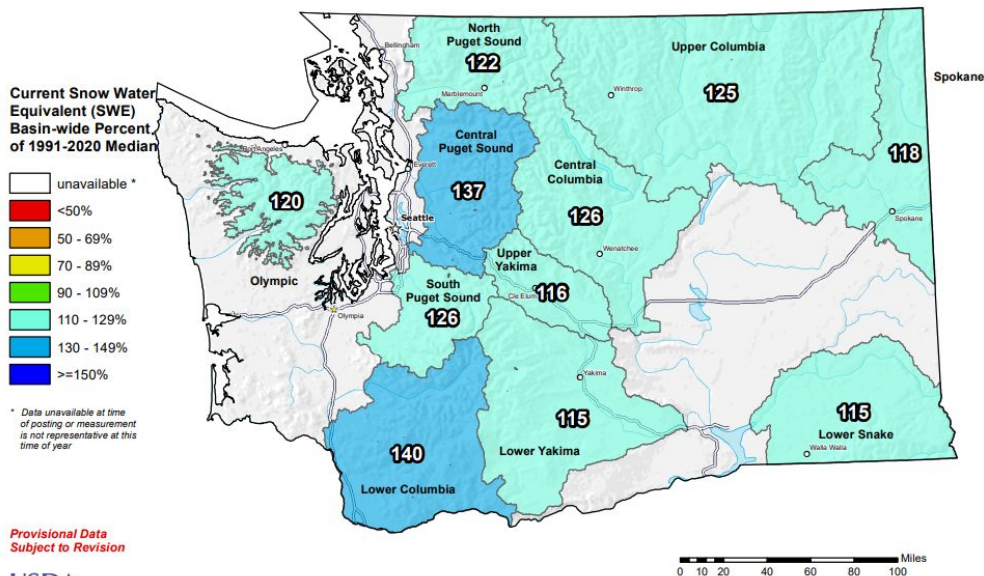
Stream flows are near to above normal levels across the Inland NW after record low flows last summer. Above normal flows remain over the Cascades basins of north central Washington, while slightly below normal flows are found in parts of the lower Snake river basin. <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

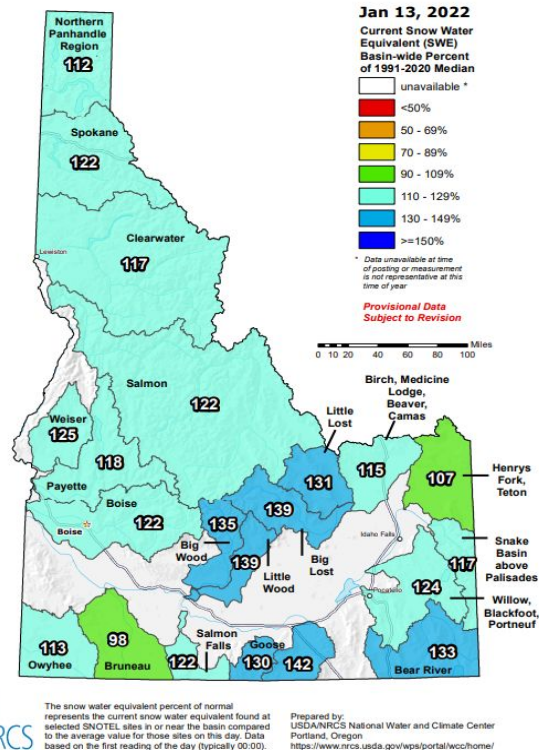
Jan 13, 2022



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

Idaho SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

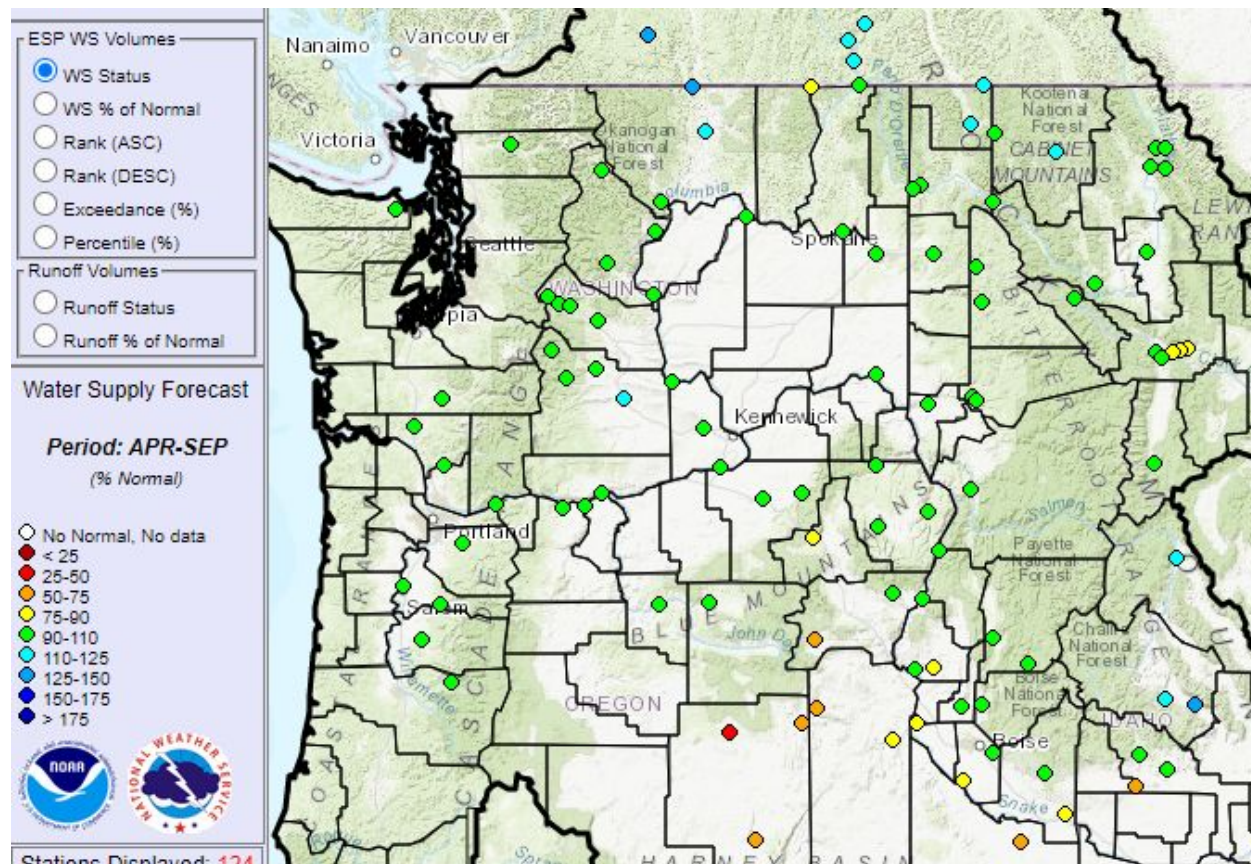
Mountain snowpack had an early start across the northern Cascades last fall. Colder temperatures in December helped the snowpack build elsewhere. Currently snow water equivalent across the mountains of the Inland NW ranges 110% to 125% of normal. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

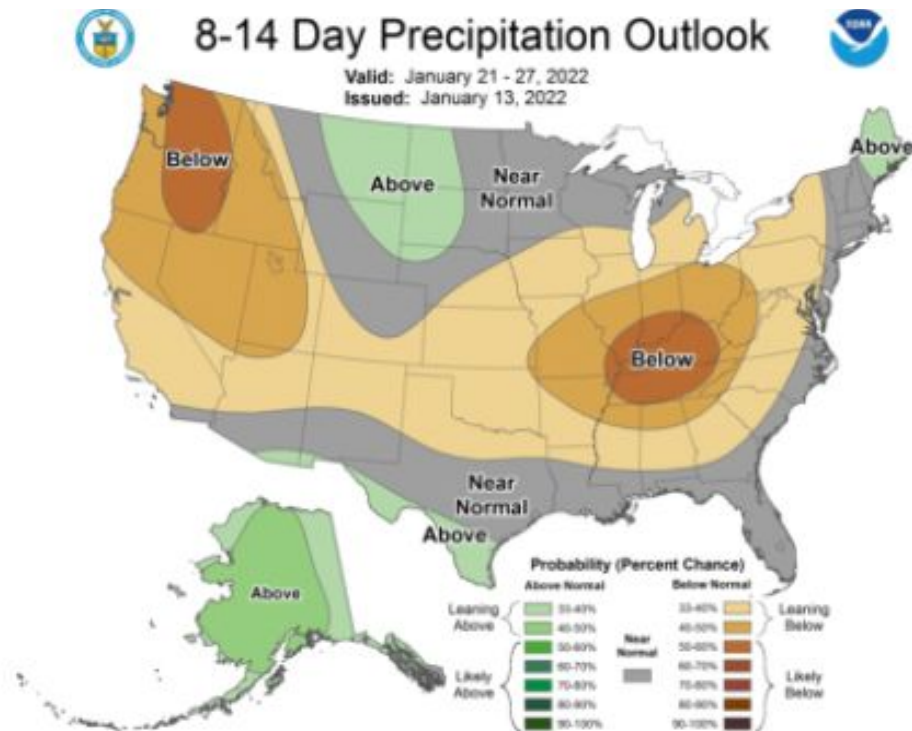
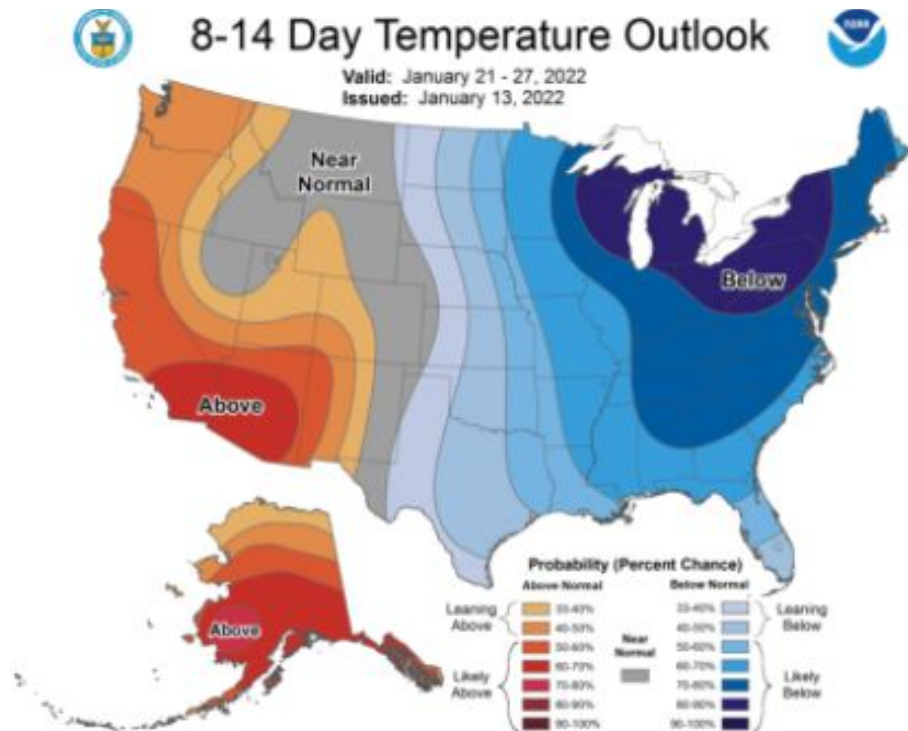


October 1st marked a new Water Year. The NW River Forecast Center water supply forecasts look near to slightly above normal for 2022 across the region.

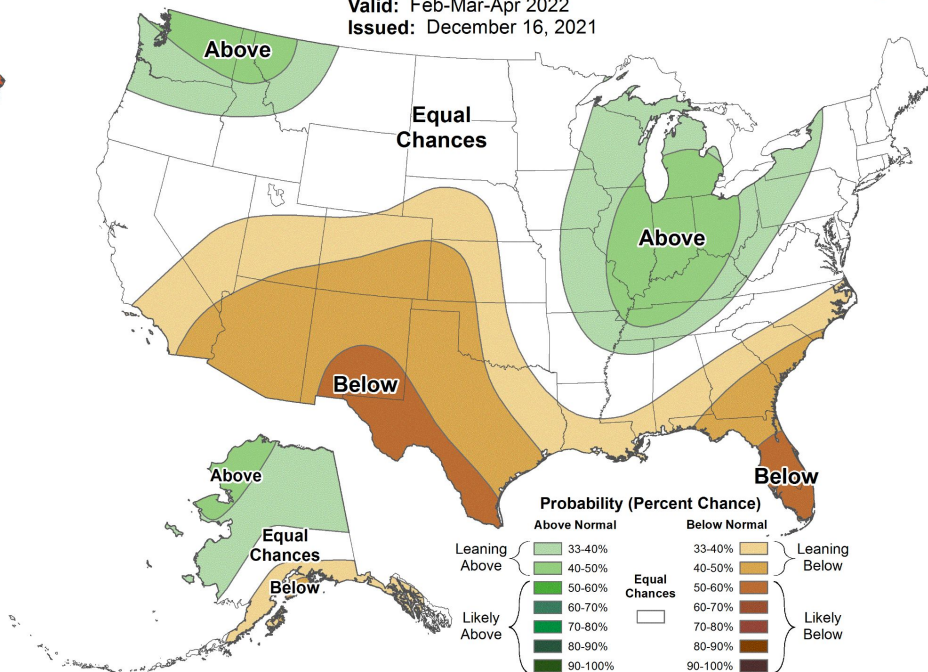
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>



CPC One Month Outlook ~ Rest of January



After a cold and snowy start to January, the Climate Prediction Center's outlook for the second half of January leans toward a slightly milder and drier period. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>



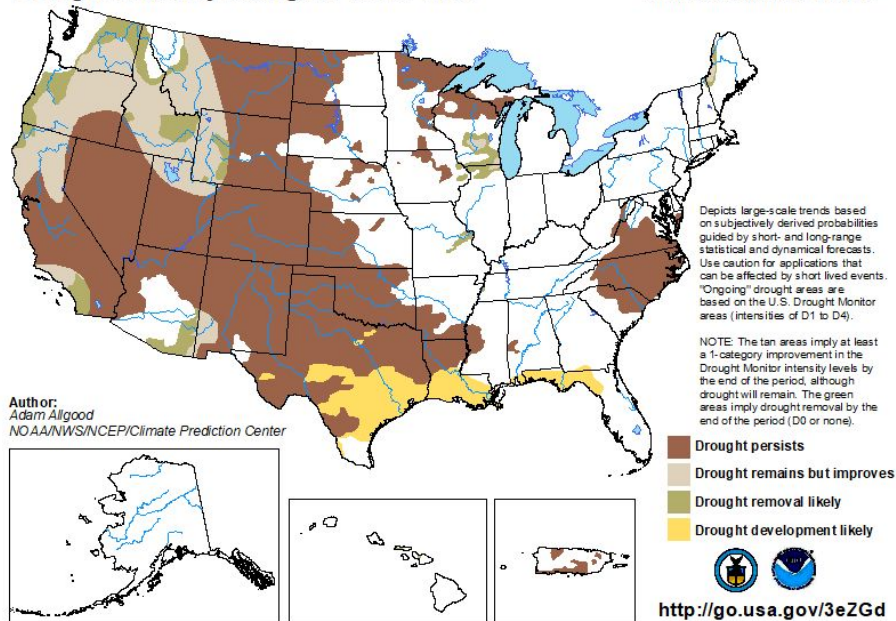
<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



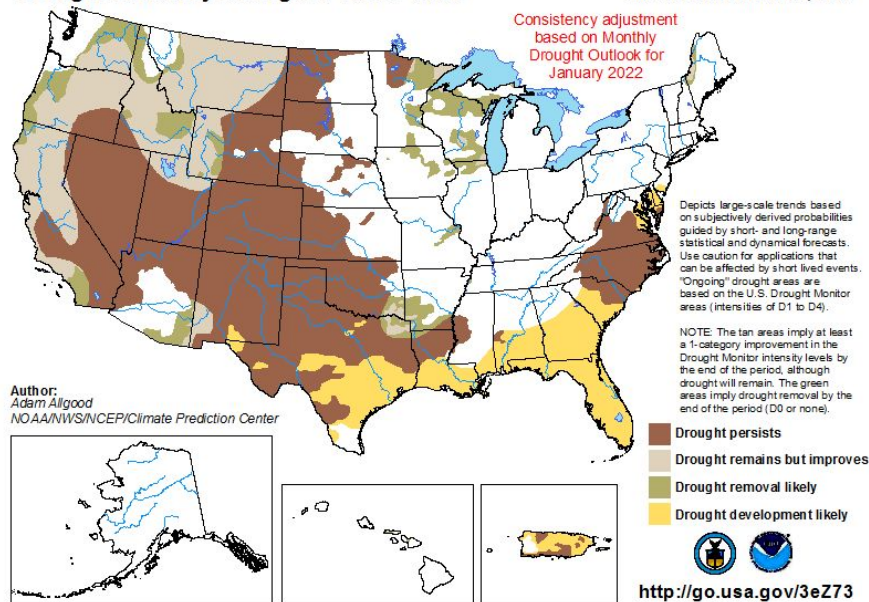
U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 2022
Released December 31, 2021



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 1 - March 31, 2022
Released December 31, 2021



The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks both suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements. There is a potential for drought removal across parts of north central and northeast Washington along with parts of the Idaho Panhandle in the coming months. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

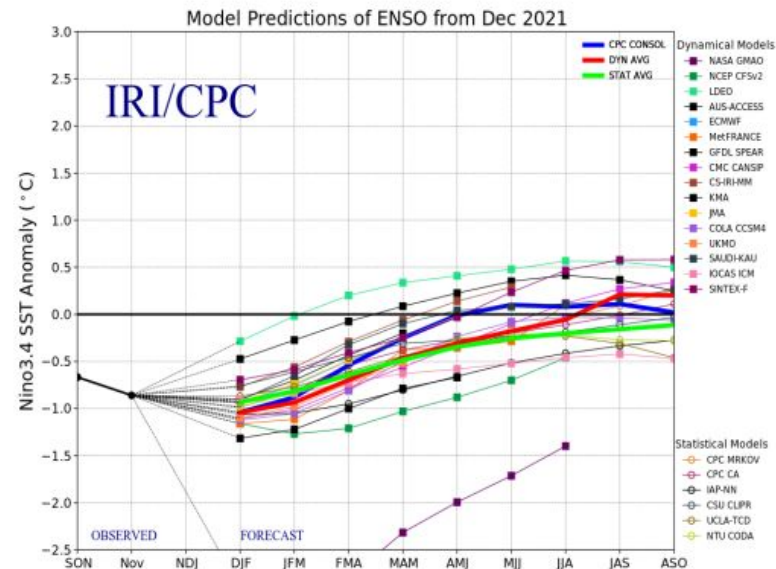
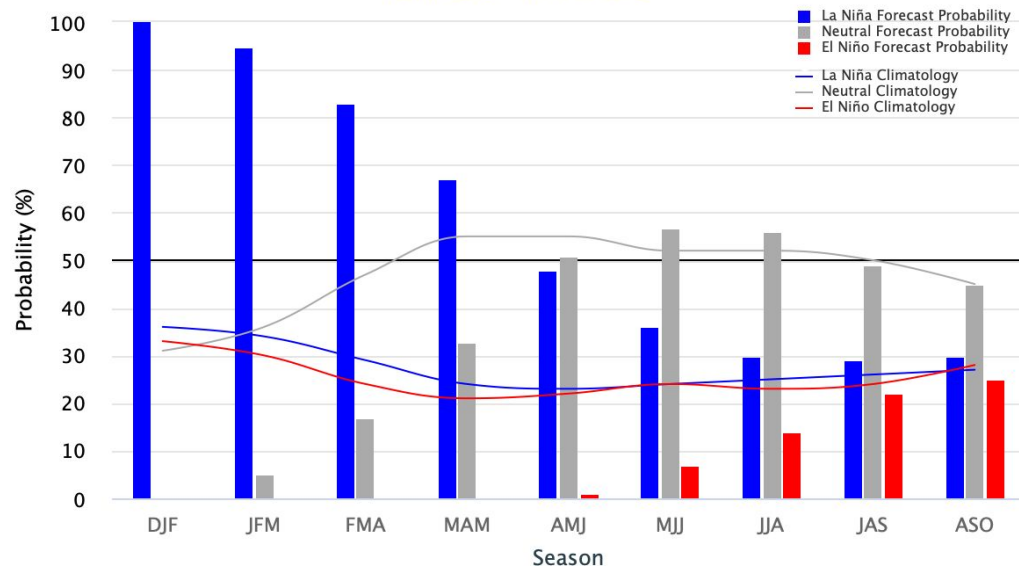
La Nina Outlook



Early-January 2022 CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly

Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C




A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Drought Summary

- Slow improvements continue across the Inland NW with shrinking of the areas of Extreme (D3) Drought and Severe (D2) Drought across the Inland NW.
- Mountain snowpack is above normal region-wide. Stream flows are near to above normal.
- After a cold and snowy start to January, a break in the active weather is anticipated. The Seasonal Outlook leans toward below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for February through April 2022, and favors improving drought conditions across the region in the months to come.
- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane